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MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey
May 2006

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EDUCATIONAL NEWS: New Computer Lab

The Meadowlands Environment Center has a new and improved computer lab. The renovation and expansion efforts to the lab was a direct result of the partnership between the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College of New Jersey and their commitment to furthering educational opportunities available through the Center.

Highlights of the lab include:

- Starrboard - an interactive whiteboard.
- Assistive Technology for Alternative Computer Access - tools that enable individuals with disabilities to use computers.
- Video Conferencing Equipment - this technology is the foundation of the production effort that enables the MEC to offer programming through Project SEE.

EVENTS AT THE CENTER in May



Gardening for Wildlife

Sunday, May 21

1:00 p.m.

Ages 12-Adult

Members \$7

Non-members \$8

- Pre-registration required.

Do you want to create a wildlife habitat in your own backyard? Follow one of our resident landscaping experts through our gardens and learn simple techniques to turn your backyard into more than just a place to sit and relax. In this hands-on program, expect to get dirty and take home a plan of your very own to start your garden a-growing.

- **Nature's Helpers**
- Saturday, May 27th
- 1:00 p.m.
- Ages: 8-10 years old accompanied by an adult
- Members \$8 admits one adult and one child; \$5 for each additional participant.
- Non Members \$10 admits one adult and one child. \$5 for each additional participant.
- Pre-registration required.

Come and explore Mother Nature's team of natural energy savers through hands on activities. Learn about Earth's many renewable resources while using our solar ovens to cook your own tasty treats! Once your chef's cap is removed, come back inside and get ready to get down and dirty while meeting our resident recyclers in our compost bins. These worms will truly amaze you!

[To view an electronic version of the schedule...](#)

IN THE NEWS: MEC Visiting Scholar - Dr. Eric Weiner

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Dr. Eric Weiner, a professor of Ecology and Field Biology at Ramapo College of New Jersey, is also an MEC visiting scholar who aids in program development, classes and mentoring opportunities at the Center.

To learn about the forecast for the tick season and the efforts of Dr. Weiner and his environmental science students as they evaluate conditions within the Ramapo Reservation - please view this story "Tick Season Forecast" as presented on NJN News, April 19th.

[To view the story...](#)

#### **PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS: Summer 2006 Senior Program**

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This summer the Meadowlands Environment Center is pleased to present for your enjoyment its Summer Senior Program for 2006, "Renew Your Body, Mind, Soul and Senses".

Every Tuesday, starting in June and ending in September, afternoon or evening programs are scheduled that will intrigue, energize and revitalize your spirit. There will be music, interactive programs and educational series that will leave you renewed and yearning for more.

All programs in this series are free of charge, thanks to a supporting grant from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

[For more information and to register online...](#)

MEET THE STAFF: Welcome Lt. Colonel (r) Joe Porrovecchio

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This month we welcome a new employee to the Meadowlands Environment Center. Lt.

Colonel (r) Joe Porrovecchio has joined the Center as the Director of the Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute.

Mr. Porrovecchio starts at the Center having recently spent time in New Orleans where he oversaw a team of engineers and workers responsible for the construction of 45 buildings in 44 days to enable Southern University of New Orleans to reopen post-Katrina.

In his position, as head of the Meadowlands Sustainable Resource Institute, Mr. Porrovecchio will work with both the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College of New Jersey in their efforts to increase green building redevelopment and retrofitting in the Meadowlands District through a partnership-based model with business leaders.

These actions are in addition to a partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council to hold an intensive workshop for developers, draft green building design guidelines for the Meadowlands Master Plan, and pursue green building standards for the NJMC's existing operations and expanded campus.

### MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Nature Program Cooperative

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May NPC Event: Take a Peek in the Creek

- Sponsored by the Nature Program Cooperative
- Hosted by the Puffin Foundation Ltd. and Teaneck Creek Conservancy
- Saturday, May 6, 2006
- two sessions
- 10:00 a.m. - Noon
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Led by internationally renowned eco-artist Brandon Ballengee, this nature and art workshop will have participants discovering the Teaneck Creek by seining its waters with dip nets for aquatic wildlife, and then painting and sketching their findings. Pre-registration required, please call 201-836-2403 or email teaneckcreek@mindspring.com to register. \$5 per person materials fee. Dress in outdoor clothing and boots/old sneakers. Students of all ages welcome. Meet at the Puffin Cultural Forum, 20 East Oakdene Ave, Teaneck NJ. Go to www.puffinfoundation.org for directions.

Note: This NPC program is part of a series of events for the Teaneck Creek Conservancy's Grand Opening Week. Grand Opening Week is being held to celebrate the opening of the Conservancy's trails.

[To learn more about the Nature Program Cooperative...](#)

ECO-TRIATHLON: Update

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- Saturday, June 10, 2006 - rain or shine
- 7:30am start
- 10 mile BIKE through and around the Meadowlands Sports Complex
- 3K CANOE on the Hackensack River
- 4 mile RUN to Laurel Hill County Park

**Meadowlands Liberty Entry deadline June 3, 2006 - Minimum Age 18**

[For more information or an application...](#)

## MEADOWFEST: Update

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Saturday June 10th
raindate - Sunday June 11th
11:00 am - 4:00pm
Laurel Hill County Park, Secaucus

MeadowFest is New Jersey's premier outdoor festival, with a fantastic array of resources of state, county and local institutions behind it. With great food, thousands of visitors expected, continuous entertainment, educational exhibits - a day of fun is expected for all.

[To learn more about the activities scheduled for MeadowFest...](#)

NJMC BOAT CRUISES in May

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May 17th  
May 18th  
May 31st

Departing at 5:30 from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt.

The suggested minimum donation is \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, please call (201) 460-4640. Special cruises are available for educational, civic and other groups. All boats are fully equipped and piloted by Coast Guard qualified captains.

[For more information...](#)

## NJMC CANOE TRIPS in May

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May 20th 8:00 am Launching at Mill Creek

We supply all the equipment and give you helpful tips before setting out on the water. Canoes are provided at a cost of \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required. Groups are welcome. For more information or to book a tour, please call (201) 460-4640.

[To learn more](#)

Quick Links...

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- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [MEC Media Center](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)

- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

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